United States Patent [19]

Whitaker

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[54] **COMBINATIONAL KEYBOARD WITH MOVABLE KEYS AND ADAPTED FOR ONE-HANDED KEYING OF NUMERICAL INFORMATION**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **197/98;** 340/365 L

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 197/98; 335/206, 207, 335/205; 200/5 A, 159 B; 317/101, 112; 340/365; 235/145, 146; 35/5, 35 H

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Combinational keyboards generally have 10 keys positioned to fall naturally under the fingertips of the two hands when the hands are in operating position. The present invention provides a keyboard with movable keys in order to accommodate the hand configurations of various operators. Combinational keyboards are generally arranged so that mathematics may be performed by the right hand only. An expanded one-handed character set results if the two thumb keys are placed adjacent each other so that the right thumb can operate both. This desirable feature is attained by (1) making the left thumb key sufficiently movable that it may be positioned adjacent the right thumb key, or (2) positioning the left hand keys so that the thumb keys are adjacent, or (3) providing an additional key operable by the right thumb.

5 Claims, 10 Drawing Figures